GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3636
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004
ENCOURAGING DOCTORS TO PRACTICE IN VILLAGES
Meghwal Shri Kailash;Yadav Shri Baleshwar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to send young doctors who pass out from medical collages to the villages for one or two years for providing medical facilities;

(b) if so, whether the Government has decided to provide lump-sum package as incentive to the doctors to encourage them to practice in the villages;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon; and

(d) the action plan chalked out in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c): No, Sir. At present, the Central Government have no proposal to make it mandatory for young doctors to work in rural areas. However, some of the State Governments have made it obligatory for doctors to work in rural areas. Since the appointment and postings of doctors is entirely the responsibility of the State Governments/UT administration, the State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised to take appropriate steps to fill up the vacancies of doctors in rural areas.

(d): In pursuance of the Resolution of the 6th Conference of Central Council of the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare held in 1999, the States have been advised to take up following steps to meet the shortages of doctors in rural areas:

- To resort to decentralized recruitment of doctors.
- To appoint doctors on contract basis, wherever feasible.
- To improve infrastructural facilities for doctors and remove their hardships.
- To take steps to fill up vacancies of Specialists in CHCS and Medical Officers in PHCs by making rural services obligatory for 3 years.
- To reserve 25% of postgraduate seats in Medical Colleges, for in-service candidates who have worked in rural areas for at least three years with a bond that they will serve the Government for at least five years.